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APR 19 1972

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FROM : Amembassy, GUATEMALA

DATE: April 12, 1972

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SUBJECT : INTERNAL SECURITY: Monthly Report of Incidents,  
March 1972

AIR ARMY NAVY OSD

REF :

USIA NSA CIA

SUMMARY: Government actions dominated the internal security scene in March. Security force operations included numerous apprehensions, several of whom were subsequently released, and possibly the killing of FAR Peten commander "Androcles." The Arana Administration bolstered its image in the security field this month by promptly solving two kidnapping cases which were apparently non-political. However, the Government was scarcely out of the woods--relatives of missing persons, South Coast citizens, and Huelga de Dolores participants criticized to varying degrees aspects of the "pacification program." The month's 57 press-reported incidents of a probable political nature represented the lowest level of violence since January 1971. END SUMMARY

Government Actions: The Government's most important success this month was a March 23 Peten gunfight in which FAR guerrillas "Lucio" and "Androcles" were killed according to an official bulletin. If true

the FAR will sorely miss the two, particularly "Androcles" who was its Peten commander and who participated in numerous operations including the assassinations of US Ambassador Mein (1968) and German Ambassador Von Spreti (1970).

COMMENT: The FAR is paying dearly for its January 9 ambush of a Peten military patrol which caused the army to strengthen its Poptun garrison and launch a large-scale sweep operation which, at month's end, showed no signs of slowing down.

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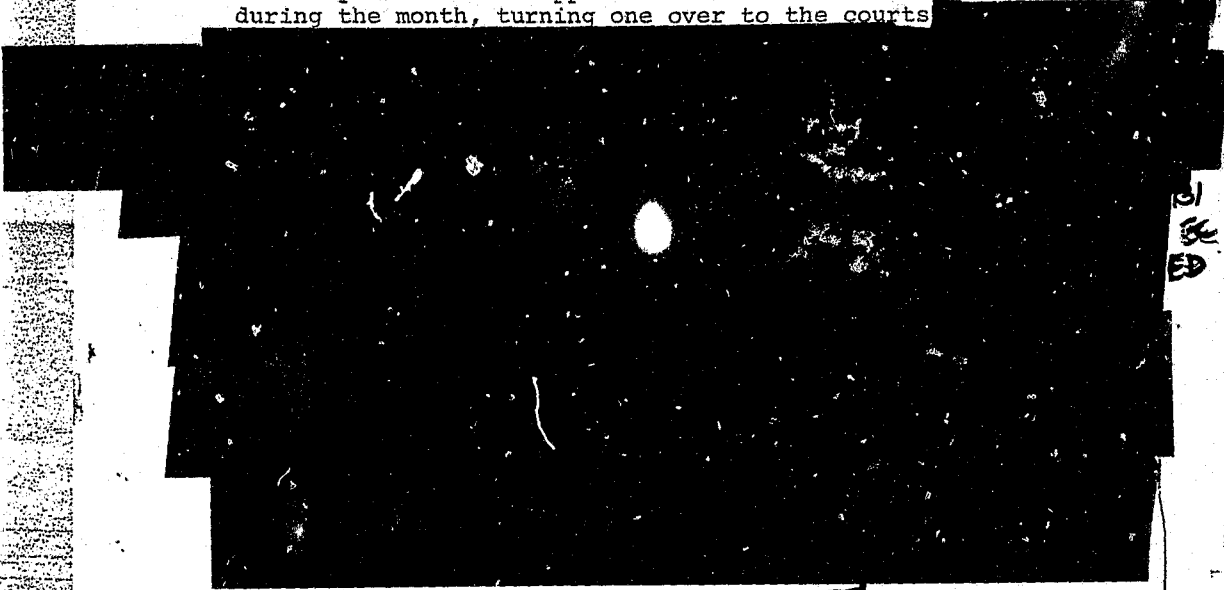
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Security Forces also apprehended at least six PGR or FAR members during the month, turning one over to the courts



COMMENT: The Government has been assiduously avoiding incidents with university students and professors for the past several months. Whatever the reason, this policy has successfully avoided GOG-University conflicts.

Terrorist Actions: Terrorists left their leaflets in various locations this month, but apparently accomplished little else. According to the press, security forces repelled a March 1 attack on a Mobile Police Post in San Marcos, and in a March 12 Jalapa gunfight, killed one guerrilla and captured Sergio RAMIREZ Miranda, 

COMMENT: We have no independent confirmation that either attack was guerrilla-inspired, but we have an indication that the Jalapa-Jutiapa area is becoming a focus for PGT/FAR operations. Overall, however, the PGT has of late been channeling resources and energies into its student and labor movements, while continuing to maintain its strike capability.

GOG Public Relations: The Government bolstered its image in the security field this month by promptly solving two apparently non-political kidnapping cases, one involved a 15-year-old Quezaltenango girl and the other a five-month-old baby in the capital. President Arana, evidently close to the relatives of both victims, had ordered the kidnappers captured no matter

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what the cost. In addition, the GOG, in a well conceived publicity move, decorated two soldiers for heroic action in the Peten ambush last January.

COMMENT: Both sets of kidnappers were caught through citizen cooperation and effective although at times harsh police investigative methods.

Public Criticism: Despite the kudos and the downswing in the monthly incident rate (see below), the press carried various criticisms of the Government's "pacification program." The "Committee of Mothers of the Missing" charged that the Papal Nuncio had done nothing on their behalf although two months had passed since their last petition. One newspaper reported a March meeting in the capital which Escuintla and Santa Rosa finqueros held to organize armed groups in light of the Government's inability to protect them from an average of "30 assaults per month." Quezaltenango residents also talked about forming citizen groups, authorized by the Government, to fight a crime wave in that city. And the principal theme of San Carlos University students' Huelga de Dolores was Government perpetrated violence in which the President, MLN leader Mario SANDOVAL Alarcon, and MLN Deputy Oliverio CASTANEDA Paiz received prime attention.

COMMENT: The above finqueros, at least some of whom are already well armed, are following the example of their more organized western colleagues who have obtained arms and operate a radio net with the coordination and support of the Quezaltenango base commander.

Statistics: The March press reported 57 incidents of a probable political nature. This is the lowest total since January 1971, and is only slightly more than half of 1971's monthly average (103). Regional violence was almost equally divided between the capital, South Coast, and Eastern regions. The press this month reported 17 kidnappings, [REDACTED] and 24 killings, including those of two guerrillas, a military commissioner, a small farmer, but no members of the regular security forces. Seven incidents (12%) appeared to be of left-wing terrorist origin, 10 (18%) initiated by the Government, and the remainder was not attributable.

BOWDLER *WAB*

Enclosure: Monthly Frequency  
of Political Incidents by Region.

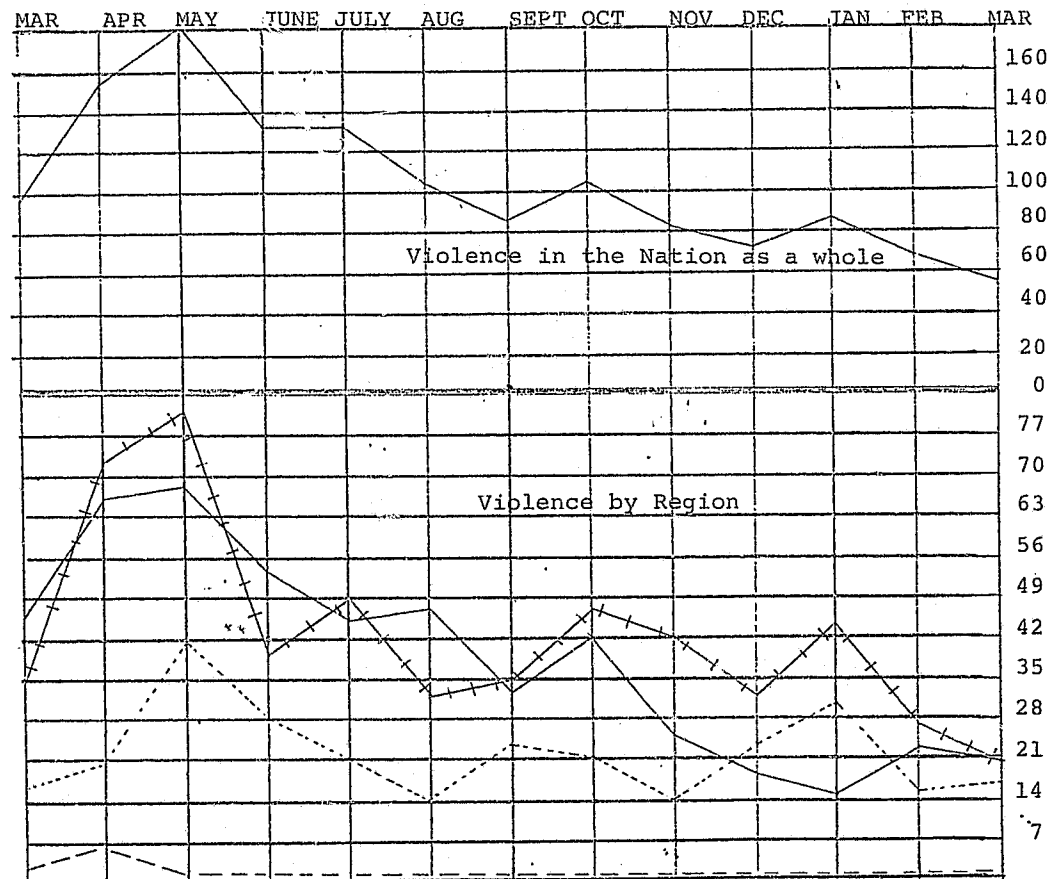
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MONTHLY FREQUENCY OF POLITICAL INCIDENTS BY REGION - MARCH 1971 - MARCH 1972

*Guatemala*  
A-52



Total - 57

For purposes of this graph, acts of violence include shootings, bombings, and deaths, all of which appear to be politically motivated.

- Capital area - Sacatepequez, Guatemala
- South Coast - San Marcos, Quezaltenango, Retalhuleu, Suchitepequez, Escuintla, Santa Rosa
- Eastern Region - Jutiapa, El Progreso, Jalapa, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Izabal, El Peten
- Highlands - Totonicapan, Chimaltenango, Huehuetenango, El Quiche, Baja Verapaz, Alta Verapaz, Solola